



**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific  
2177 Puowaina Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## **News Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Work Kicks Off on the New Vietnam Pavilion and Other Improvements to the Honolulu Memorial in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl)**

Staff of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific joined officials from the Corps of Engineers and the American Battle Monuments Commission as well as other well-wishers to break ground for the new Vietnam Pavilions Project at the cemetery on May 9.

Cemetery Director Gene Castagnetti welcomed the initiation of the construction project by saying, "as a Vietnam Veteran, I'd like to be the voice of those who can't be here today. Over 3.5 million American men and women served in the Vietnam Campaign. Five hundred and forty three thousand actually fought in country [at its peak]. Of that number, 300,000 were wounded and 58,000 were killed in action. This was an enormous sacrifice. And we have 2,489 names listed in our courts of the missing. And when you look at the name of this cemetery, the Hawaiian word is Puowaina (Hill of Sacrifice) it is appropriate to honor the American sacrifice in that era for the noble cause of Vietnam. Today we honor those Veterans and today's ceremony shows that they are not forgotten."

The project entails constructing two new pavilions located next to those that commemorate World War II and the Korean War at the top of the Honolulu Memorial. The design of the new pavilions will be compatible with the materials, features and architectural style of the existing ones. One of the two pavilions will include mosaic maps illustrating Vietnam War battles that will complement the existing World War II and Korean War map galleries. The other pavilion will serve as an orientation center for the Honolulu Memorial.

In addition, the project will provide exterior illumination to the pavilions; repair and/or replace existing walkway areas, drainage and landscaping that are affected by the construction; and improve handicap accessibility to the Honolulu Memorial by adding a handicap ramp to the mauka side map gallery entrance, rebuilding the handicap ramps to the restrooms to meet current guidelines, and providing an accessible parking and loading stall in the upper area of the Honolulu Memorial.

During the construction of the new pavilions and the handicap accessibility improvements, public access to portions of the Honolulu Memorial may be limited. Visitors' access to the Memorial Chapel and other parts of Punchbowl (e.g. columbarium, gravesites) will not be impacted. The committal services, inurnments and

burials conducted by the cemetery staff will continue without interruption. All the construction work is scheduled to be completed in early November 2012

The Honolulu Memorial is one of 25 federal memorials maintained worldwide by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The Honolulu Memorial was built by the Corps of Engineers inside the cemetery grounds and dedicated in 1966 to honor those missing in action from World War II's Pacific theater and the Korean War; it was expanded in 1980 to bear the names of 2,504 missing service members from the Vietnam War, but battle maps from the Vietnam War were not included.

For general information regarding Punchbowl, please call the cemetery at (808) 532-3720. For more information about the project, please call the Army Corps of Engineers' Honolulu District Public Affairs Office at (808) 438-8317.

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